The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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"DEMOCRACY" WITH A STRING IS PROPOSED BY MEAT PACKERS

After violating their agreement with employes and the government, the meat packers assume a virtuous pose and announce that they have established "industrial democracy" in their plants.

The plan is the usual company "union"—joint committees, representing employes and employed, with the latter controlling the former. The employes will vote secretly for their representatives, but every petty boss, superintendent and manager will see that the "right" candidates are nominated.

If the packers favored democracy they would permit employes to organize trade unions and recognize trade union representatives. Instead, they set up machinery that they can control and their publicity agents dub the scheme industrial democracy.

It is possible that future opposition to organized labor will take this form. Industrial autocrats and their advisers are realizing that the "open" shop sham has lost its charm so they start counter movements that have the shadow of democracy, but not the substance.

The plan is smoother than avowed hostility to trade unions. It is what is known in business circles as "slick." It does not arouse the resentment caused by cossacks, gun men and the injunction judge. It permits autocracy to capitalize popular phrases, a trick of its political agents and editors, and substitutes chloroform for brute force.

The company "union" lacks the first democratic essential, because it is boss controlled. Its purpose is to perpetuate the employer's power. If this were not the employer's object he would recognize the one institution that permits democracy to function among his employes.

To say that the company "union" will develop into bona fide unionism, is to say that judges will voluntarily cease issuing labor injunctions; that courts will surrender usurped power to pass on the legality of laws, or that democracy can function when ballot box stuffers are permitted to count the votes.

Autocracy in every form is historically cunning, resourceful and alert. When cornered it will use the forms of its opponents, but never the spirit. It will give the shadow but not the substance. It will profess to yield, but yields nothing until compelled to.

Nowhere in history has autocracy surrendered power, but there are countless instances where men have been tricked into believing it would.

The company "union" is intended to drug the workers.

There can be no democracy when a string is tied to it.

College Boys Strip Anti-Strike Sophistry

San Francisco, March 26.—In a joint debate between teams representing Princeton and California universities on anti-strike legislation, the Californians, who opposed the plan, showed that anti-strike advocates offer nothing but well wishes to workers who have lost their rights.

The question was: "Resolved, That congress should pass laws prohibiting strikes in essential industries."

The claim that a fair wage will replace labor's right to strike, was riddled by California, who was declared victor in the contest.

"What is a fair wage?" asked the westerners. "Without an answer to this question the whole plan resolves itself into one of mere platitudes and generalities. We have analyzed the reports of many wage adjustment boards in an effort to find any statement which defines a living wage with any degree of accuracy. We have found none. In most of the decisions the judge has frankly admitted the impossibility of giving a wage award upon any scientific basis. Judge Alschuler in the packing house case says: 'Budgets are of very little assistance, all reflecting the point of view of those who compiled them.'

"The proponents of this law, before they have established a semblance of a case, must show that it is desirable to standardize progress and change the labor movement from one of vital dynamic growth to one of static repose. Impossible of determination, with no basic economic assumption for either a living wage as a minimum or a fair wage as a maximum, how will the commission be able to guarantee the workman a fair exchange for depriving him of the strike. The enactment of this law would take from labor its only effective weapon and give it nothing in return.

"We have pointed out continually that the plan presented by our opponents is a makeshift remedy, that it does not strike at the real roots of industrial unrest. What is the cause of strikes? The time has come when we must think in terms of causes, and subject any suggested remedy to this criterion: will it help solve the problem of industrial unrest by removing the cause? If it does not it is worse than futile, it is a positive evil in that it delays any real settlement of the problem, and only serves to irritate the sore of industrial unrest.

"Compulsory arbitration would deprive the laboring man of the power to work out his own destiny and give that power to a small body of men. This is not democracy. Our government might be operated with less friction if the management of it was taken out of the hands of the people and placed under the control of experts. We have always believed, however, that democracy means letting the people work out their own destiny, that the justification of government is found not so much in efficiency as in the increased power and ability it gives the people in solving their own problems. Whatever may be said to be the advantages of compulsory arbitration, it certainly can not be said that industrial democracy is one of them. It leads straight to industrial autocracy, not democracy.

"Democracy must come from within, and be the self expression of the whole working class. It can never be handed down from above and given to a class deprived of its economic power and chained to industry under an economic system that recognizes it only as a commodity.

"The labor movement is a living, vital thing. To cement it into one status decreed by governmental authority is to destroy irretrievably the whole movement."

FOOD PRICES FOR ONE YEAR.

Washington, March 26.—Substantial reductions in the retail price of cabbage, onions, potatoes and sugar has lowered food prices 21 per cent for the period February, 1920, to February, 1921, for 37 of the 43 articles that prices were secured by the bureau of labor statistics.

During this period cabbage dropped 61 per cent; onions, 58 per cent; potatoes, 57; sugar, 53; rice, 43; lard, 36; crisco, 32; strictly fresh eggs and navy beans, 30; storage eggs, 25; coffee, 24; corn meal, 23; butter and prunes, 22; flour and canned tomatoes, 20; oleomargarine, 18; plate beef and oranges, 15; pork chops, 13; chuck roast and lamb, 12; bacon, nut margarine and cheese, 11; evaporated milk and beans, 9; round steak, fresh milk and canned corn, 8; rib roast, 7; sirloin steak, 6; ham, bread and canned peas, 5; hens, 4; corn flakes, 1 per cent.

The five articles which increased in price during the year were: Raisins, 25 per cent; macaroni, 7; rolled oats, 3; cream of wheat, 2; tea, less than five-tenths of 1 per cent.

There was no reduction during the year for canned salmon and bananas.

WILSON RESIGNS.

Washington, March 26.—Former Secretary of Labor Wilson has resigned from the international joint commission to which he was appointed by President Wilson at the closing hours of his administration. It is stated that President Harding intimated to the ex-labor secretary that his resignation would be acceptable. The duties of the commission are to adjust waterways disputes between this country and Canada. Other differences between citizens of the two countries may be referred to this commission.

ANTI-LABOR ACTS KILLED.

Nashville, Tenn., March 26.—The state legislature has killed an anti-strike proposal and also a scheme to permit trade unions to be sued. The latter act would permit any voluntary association of seven or more members to sue or be sued. The purpose was to reach unions, but it was shown that the door would be thrown wide open for every form of graft and blackmail.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Baton Rouge, La., March 26.—The annual convention of the Louisiana state federation of labor will be held in this city April 4, 5 and 6.

WAGE CUT NOT JUSTIFIED.

Boston, March 26.—"Neither rents, fuel nor transportation costs have declined," says Editor Baine of the Shoe Workers' Journal.

"There have been fluctuating decline in food stuffs and clothing, but these costs are still very high and far beyond the pre-war level."

Sioux City, Iowa, March 26.—In a publicity campaign conducted by organized labor against wage reductions, attention is called to these advances in the cost of living in this city during the past year:

Gas increased from $1 to $1.50 per thousand feet; electricity increased 20 per cent per kilowat hour; water increased 20 per cent, telephone increased 20 per cent, car fare increased 20 per cent.

WAGE CUT NO SOLUTION.

Worcester, Mass., March 26.—Building craftsmen have rejected a proposed 20 per cent wage reduction, which contractors allege will stimulate building construction. The workers reply that this reduction would not affect building and that present living costs make a reduction out of the question. They suggest that banks loosen up on their funds and loan money at lower interest and for material men to reduce prices to a reasonable figure. They state that in numerous instances war prices prevail, and in some cases are 500 per cent above normal. The workers insist that those who can best afford it should stand the brunt of the proposed reduction.

UNIONIST VICTIMIZED.

Davenport, Iowa, March 26.—The manner in which employers would control the lives of workers is shown in the discharge of Charles Rogers, president of the Street Car Men's union, because he opposed the installation of one-man cars.

Rogers, exercising his right as a citizen, presented reasons to the city council against the plan. The next day he was discharged. The union asked that the case be reviewed, as provided in an agreement between the two parties, but this was refused.

NO SLUMP IN PROFITS.

Bradford, England, March 26.—Record profits are reported by many firms in the textile industry, despite the general depression. The Bradford Dyers' association reports the highest profits in its history. The total net profit last year was £954,265, compared with £387,322 in 1919.

"CALL 'OPEN SHOP' BY ITS RIGHT NAME"—Gompers

Incalculable mischief results from general acceptance of wrong definitions in relation to public questions and issues. Not infrequently the public belies its claim to enlightenment by clinging, through year after year, to a falsehood in the face of the proof of falsehood. The effort of hostile employers to break down the union movement through the establishment of non-union shop conditions is a case in point.

Employers hostile to trade unionism long ago gave to the union shop the name "closed shop." They also coined the term "open shop" to describe the kind of shop which it was their aim to operate in opposition to the union shop.

The anti-union shop—and that is generally the "open shop"—is a shop in which the employer pursues a militant policy in opposition to organization. It is the shop of the crusading employer bent upon maintaining industrial autocracy and upon restoring it where trade unionism has broken it down.

The kind of shop which certain employers' associations today are endeavoring to establish under the name "open shop" is, in reality, the anti-union shop.

The "open shop" crusade is not what its name implies. It is a crusade against unionism. It is a crusade to break down the organized labor movement and restore industrial oligarchy.

The "open shop" of the present anti-union campaign is open only to non-union men. The United States steel corporation professes to maintain an open shop, but its tolerance for union workers in the steel mills has been shown amply within the past two years. Likewise its tolerance for union workers in its great West Virginia coal mine properties has been shown with equal emphasis. Unions and all their works and principles are hated and persecuted.

As a blind to cover their real purposes, certain of the so-called open shop advocates have set up what they term the "American plan" of shop operation. This is but another name for the non-union shop. The "American plan" has as its main principle bitter opposition to trade unionism.

The labor movement insists upon giving the proper terminology to the conflict between organized labor and its employer opponents. The labor movement insists that there can be no accurate public knowledge, and therefore no fair and adequate judgment of the issues, unless the terminology is accurate. To render a verdict on the merits of the union shop as against the kind of shop which hostile employers have in mind when they use the term "open shop" is equally as reprehensible as for a jury to render a verdict upon perjured evidence.

The labor movement strives for the union shop because the union shop means the introduction of democracy in industry. It means the beginning of counsel and conference, the end of the long ages of labor's silence. It means the beginning of manhood and womanhood for those who work.

There is no such thing as an "open shop" campaign in America. Every person who has the opportunity to speak or to write, who has the opportunity to convey information and counsel to his fellows, owes it as duty to truth to expose and condemn this fraud.

What there is in America is a campaign on the part of autocratic employers to kill trade unionism in order that non-union shops may be conducted, wherein conditions of labor long since abolished in union shops may obtain without audible protest from silent, powerless workers.

America, if it understands, will know how to answer such an infamous campaign.

MINERS FIGHT WAGE CUTS.

Indianapolis, March 26.—The executive board of the United Mine Workers' union calls on members of that organization to resist wage cuts and insist that present contracts be observed by the coal owners.

President Lewis, of the miners' international, declares that a wage reduction would not result in any more coal delivery and that experience has demonstrated that wage reduction in this industry benefits no one.

"Furthermore," he said, "wages now paid in the coal industry are sufficiently low to permit coal to be produced and sold to the consumer at reasonable rates, in comparison with other commodities, and still bring the coal owners a good profit.

"In the state of Washington coal owners demanded wage reductions in violation of an award by the president's bituminous coal commission. Reductions are also being attempted in Kentucky and Tennessee.

"The integrity of our present wage agreement, based upon the award of the bituminous coal commission, must be maintained," said President Lewis.

This commission was appointed following the nation-wide strike of miners in 1919. At that time a great cry was heard about "the rights of the public," but no reference was made to the miners' rights then or now, when the coal owners would smash the agreement.

There is plenty of coal now and it would appear that what these people meant in 1919, when they talked about "the rights of the public," was the public's inconvenience, rather than any interest in justice and rights.

TINKERING WITH RAIL LAW.

Washington, March 26.—S. Davies Warfield, president of the national association of owners of railroad securities, wants additional railroad legislation.

The plan provides for the creation of a new body to purchase all railroad supplies. Committees would be created to investigate useless expenditures, standardization of all kinds, the possible use of joint terminals, yards and shop facilities, cost of carrying, working conditions, wages and other features entering into the successful management of railroads.

Aside from the value of the new proposal it is significant that with praise heaped on the transportation act, drastic changes are being discussed after the law is but one year old.

Mr. Warfield is credited in some quarters with being the author of the Cummins-Esch law. In the 1920 issue of the Journal of National Institute of Social Sciences, Mr. Warfield's biography as a banker includes the statement that he organized the national association of owners of railroad securities and that "the work of Mr. Warfield's organization resulted in the passage of the transportation act."

NOT A PRACTICAL MAN.

Chicago, March 26.—At a hearing before the railway labor board T. DeWitt Cuyler, chairman of the association of railway executives, acknowledged that he "was not a practical railroad man," although he is a director of four railroads, 10 banks and other corporations. Mr. Cuyler has been issuing much publicity as chairman of the association, and on cross-examination stated that these words of wisdom were written by Ivy Lee.

Ivy Lee came into prominence when he testified before the United States commission on industrial relations six years ago, that he was connected with the Rockefeller interests, during the miners' strike in Colorado that culminated in the killing of women and children at Ludlow.

MOTHERS' BILL PASSED.

Dover, Del., March 26.—The state senate has passed a bill providing aid for working women during periods of child birth.

The act forbids employment of women in mercantile, mechanical, transportation, manufacturing establishments, laundries, baking or printing shops, places of amusement or dress making establishments for two months before and three weeks after childbirth. If the mother has been a resident of the state three years, she shall be paid $10 a week by the state as compensation for seven weeks. A mothers' pension commission will control payments.

FREIGHT RATES HARMFUL.

Philadelphia, March 26.—In the financial columns of a local newspaper this reference is made to present freight rates which "far-sighted statesmen" and public opinion "molders" demanded last year:

"Existing high freight rates, especially for short hauls, are having two effects, one to stop shipments entirely and the other to make it advantageous to send goods, even of bulky kind, by motor truck, particularly where the roads are good."

CITIES RUN BEHIND.

Washington, March 26.—According to figures made public by the census bureau the cost of governing 227 cities of the country with a population of 30,000 or more exceeded total revenues by $5,991,000 in the year 1919. The cost included interest and outlays for permanent improvements.

WEST VIRGINIA JOLTS GOVERNMENT BY THUGS

Williamson, W. Va., March 26.—A jury has decreed that Sid Hatfield and 15 co-defendants are not guilty of a conspiracy to kill Albert Felts, a Baldwin-Feltz detective, and government by thugs has been given its hardest jolt in this state.

When the jury announced its verdict Judge Bailey ordered the defendants to give bond for their appearance to answer the charge of killing six other detectives. The accused were permitted to return to their homes in Matewan.

The shooting followed an attempt by the detectives to oust striking miners from company houses at Matewan last May. Sid Hatfield is chief of police at that place and refused to become identified with the thugs. It was shown at the trial that the warrants to oust the miners were forgeries and that Albert Feltz had suggested that Hatfield be paid "$200 or $300 a month" to side with them. It was also shown that the thugs were refused permission by Mayor Testerman to install a machine gun in Matewan.

Under these conditions the detectives attempted to evict the miners without conforming with law. In an instant guns were brought into play and resulted in the deaths of Mayor Testerman, two other citizens of Matewan and seven detectives.

The attorneys for the defense charged that not one lawyer for the prosecution could say that he represents the state of West Virginia. It was also charged that T. L. Felts, general manager of the detective agency, and brother of one of the slain detectives, "feeds the attorneys."

Strenuous efforts were made by the prosecution to keep the union question out of the trial, but these attorneys were not so particular when the jury was being selected. At that time Judge Bailey sustained them in the claim that no trade unionist should be a member of the jury, regardless of his oath that he was qualified to render a just verdict.

The prosecution claimed that the killings were the result of a conspiracy on the part of Hatfield and others. The defense claimed self-defense and insisted that they were "quicker" than the thugs, and if Hatfield and Testerman were for sale they would be immune from attack.

"TWO BITS AN HOUR."

Fort Worth, Texas, March 26.—The Southern Pacific railway has reduced wages of unskilled workers, and Editor Woodman of the Union Banner says:

"For the unskilled worker two bits per hour is the schedule. Will some one please try to imagine a family living anywhere in Texas on either $2 a day or $2.50. For that is what it means—either an eight-hour or 10-hour day, and either $12 or $15 a week. Perhaps the common laborer lives in a box car, as many do, and pays the company board, as many do—there is likely to be a family some where dependent upon that wage.

"A wage of this kind is unfair. It is certain to breed disease and bad citizens, increase crime and make for a backward movement in civilization."

WANT CONTRACT REINSTATED.

Chicago, March 26.—At a conference of representatives of trade unions whose membership is included in the packing industry, a demand was made that the contract between packers, butcher workmen and the government be reinstated.

The agreement was originally intended to run until peace was declared. In 1919 the packers asked the government to extend it for one year after peace was declared. This was done and now the packers have junked this contract, cut wages and lengthened hours.

The workers show that the labor cost of a pound of meat during its process in the packing house is one-sixth of a cent.

MORE LUMBER CUT.

Washington, March 26.—While lumber men join the chorus of "less production," along comes the United States forest service with the statement that California mills cut approximately 5 per cent more lumber last year than in 1918. The estimate is based upon a comparison of the combined cut of 27 identical mills representing about 50 per cent of the saw mills of the classes listed. In several instances, mills which were rated as class 4 in 1918 increased their production to the class 5 standard in 1920.

LESS BEEF IS EATEN.

Washington, March 26.—The department of agriculture reports that 10 years ago the consumption of beef per head of the population in the United States was 78 pounds. Last year it was less than 56 1-2 pounds. Beef consumption in the American household, it is stated, has undergone a great change during this time, especially in reducing waste.

CUT UNORGANIZED WAGES.

Philadelphia, March 26.—Contractors are taking advantage of poor conditions in the building industry and are reducing the wage of building laborers from 50 cents an hour to 35 and 40 cents.

LATEST WORLD SAVER HAS USUAL COLLAPSE

Drumheller, Alberta, Canada, March 26.—The one big union was given another shove into oblivion, when Arthur Evans, general secretary of its mining department, denounced this "mulligan form of organization" and resigned.

In a letter to "the faithful remnants of District No. 1, mining department of the one big union," Evans declares that the one big union executives are attempting to use the organization "as a wet nurse and propaganda club for the Socialist party of Canada and its various political freaks."

Evans refers to "would be dictators of the proletariat" within the one big union, and condemns the "mob form of organization."

The resignation is indicative of the workers' attitude toward the latest world saver that was launched in Calgary in 1919 amid wild hurrahs. It has been stated that the one big union now includes less than 5,000 members in the entire Dominion of Canada.

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, March 26.—The Alberta Labor News makes this comment on the resignation of Arthur Evans from the one big union:

"Many of those who opposed the o. b. u. from the beginning were severely criticised at the time when they expressed the conviction that the men at the head of that movement were only interested in making it—to use Mr. Evans' language—'a wet nurse and propaganda club for the Socialist party of Canada and its various freaks.'

"Those who precipitated the so-called o. b. u. movement caused a distinct set-back to the working class organizations of western Canada, from which many are now only recovering. It is to be hoped that many will profit by the experience and not again be led into helping to further the propaganda of those who believe in the 'misery' theory."

DECREASE IN FARM VALUE.

Washington, March 26.—The average price of plow land per acre in this country decreased about 7 per cent during the past year, according to the department of agriculture. The average value per acre of this land was $83.78 on March 1 of this year, as compared to $90.91 in 1920 and $74.31 in 1919. Reduction in prices of crops is responsible for the decrease, says the department.

The heaviest drop is in the southern states, where cotton is the principal crop. In some sections of these states the decline is 20 per cent. Probably the greatest drop in one state is in Kentucky, where tobacco lands have dropped from $70 per acre last year to $53 per acre this year. Western states show the least decline, and in California, Oregon and Colorado there is a slight increase. The report shows a rapid increase in the price of land from 1917 to 1920, when the highest price was reached. The decline during the past year is not as great as the increase from 1919 to 1920. Land prices are still higher than any year preceding 1920.

PRE-WAR PRICES IMPOSSIBLE.

Washington, March 26.—If pre-war prices were established, it would double the nation's debt, declared Henry C. Wallace, the new secretary of agriculture, in a statement on the agricultural situation.

"This talk of bringing prices, whether farm prices or other prices, back to the pre-war normal is morally wrong and economically impossible," he said. "We incurred a heavy national debt on the inflated prices. If we could force all prices back to the pre-war normal (which we can not) it would be equivalent to just about doubling that debt. We can pay off our debts much easier if we maintain a price level more nearly the level at which the debts were incurred."

WHO SUPPLIES FUNDS?

Chicago, March 26.—Trade unionists demand that cossack advocates tell who their financial angels are. Senator Dunlap, author of the bill, toured this city with a moving picture company, the outfit including the most expensive apparatus and skilled assistants. A magazine published in the interest of the cossacks is printed and circulated by the thousands without charge to the public.

The workers are comparing these expenditures with the claim of cossack lovers that Illinois farmers want these strikebreakers.

PRESSMEN ADVANCE.

Newark, N. J., March 26.—Wages of pressmen employed on newspapers have been advanced $4.20 a week, as the result of arbitration. The new rates are $49 a week for foremen and $43.20 for pressmen. An additional $1.80 will be paid for Sunday morning papers when the work is performed on Saturday night. The award dates back to October of last year.

FIREMEN UNITE.

Pittsburgh, Pa., March 26.—The Firemen and Oilers' Journal reports that since last December the International Brotherhood of Stationary Firemen and Oilers has chartered nearly 100 locals in every section of the United States and Canada.

IRON MOLDERS ENJOINED.

Newark, N. J., March 26.—Vice Chancellor Backus has issued an injunction against members of Iron Molders' union No. 40, who are on strike against the Worthington pump works because of wage cuts. The court was told that the strikers are "attempting to intimidate" workers who have taken their places. The injunction commands the strikers to desist from picketing and from interfering with employes.

If the iron molders were not trade unionists and were not strikers, and the company made this charge, the chancellor would laugh the company out of court when it asked for an injunction to stop "intimidation." The court would notify the company that police statutes govern this case, and that they should swear out a warrant and the accused would be given a trial by jury.

This American method is not supposed to operate, however, during strike times, when workers have no guarantees under the injunction process. The court is judge, jury and executioner. He issues his order and commands the strikers to prove their innocence, and can fine or jail them, without being hampered by law, custom or constitutional guarantee.

Because trade unionists protest against this inequity, they are charged with wanting special favors before the law, when in truth they are only asking that they be treated as any other citizens who are accused of law violation.

NO MONEY FOR KILLED.

New York, March 26.—The Brooklyn Rapid Transit company is bankrupt, and it is impossible to reimburse relatives of 100 persons killed in the Malbone tunnel accident, said Lindley M. Garrison, receiver for the company.

The statement was made in a letter to Joseph T. Griffin, president of an association formed to protect the interests of relatives of the victims.

Mr. Griffin's letter to Mr. Garrison, written after published statements that the expenses of the receivership had exceeded $472,000, said in part:

"As you very well know, the company has made no restitution to any of the victims of that disaster. Even claims for small sums for directors' and undertakers' bills have not been paid. You may understand then how bitter is the sentiment of these people when they are led to believe from newspaper stories that such vast sums of money have been paid to one or two individuals as legal fees, while just and honorable claims sanctified by every consideration of charity and law have been allowed to go unliquidated through all these weary months that have elapsed since the accident."

REJECT DILUTION PLAN.

London, England, March 26.—The National Federation of Building Trades has rejected the government's unemployed remedy by a vote of 310,000 to 2,500. The government proposed to advance the unions £5 for every ex-service man admitted to membership. The overwhelming rejection of this plan included 50,000 votes cast by union ex-service men. The unionists showed that there are 50,000 building tradesmen unemployed and there can be no solution of the unemployed problem by discharging a worker and filling his place with an out-of-work.

The plan was supported by elements who are more interested in weakening the unions, and who hoped this could be accomplished by appealing to patriotism.

RECEIVER IS SUGGESTED.

Boston, March 26.—A receiver for the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad and its entire reorganization is favored by Edgar J. Rich, attorney for the associated industries of this state. The attorney declared that "one of the essential reasons" for a receiver is the millions sunk and investments impaired in outside properties.

For years the management of this road has been scandalous, and was investigated by several New England state legislatures.

But editors ignore this condition and go happily on their way blaming high wages for the road's troubles while refusing to discuss the millions of dollars filched from the people by financiers.

REVISE HIGH WAGE CLAIM.

Worcester, Mass., March 26.—Carpet manufacturers have revised their story that the weekly wage of striking employes is $80. Secretary McGee of the manufacturers' association now acknowledges that the figures are somewhat excessive and lops off $26 a week, but insists that the wage is $54 a week. The strikers reply that McGee's next statement will be nearer the truth as their actual average for a 48-hour week is just over $40. The strikers are resisting a 25 per cent wage reduction.

LABOR AGENTS UNCHECKED.

New Orleans, March 26.—Private employment agencies in this state may gouge employment seekers without limit, said State Labor Commissioner Wood, in discussing the absence of legislation on this subject.

The state official showed that one concern in this city charges preliminary fees and then 40 per cent of the first month's salary. Other concerns charge 10 per cent of the first month's salary.

GREED WOULD DICTATE TO RELIGIOUS BODIES

Pittsburgh, Pa., March 26.—Reactionary employers in this city have become so brazen that they serve notice on religious and semi-religious organizations that they must be deaf, dumb and blind on the labor question or greed's purse strings will be tightened.

The Employers' Association of Pittsburgh has issued a circular to their membership, supplemental to the one issued last January, in which attention was called to the industrial program of the Young Women's Christian association and the efforts of that organization to raise $200,000. The industrial program of these women includes collective bargaining, protection of workers from enforced unemployment, a minimum wage and experiments in co-operative ownership. The women refused to sell their principles and reaction gloats that they only raised $90,000 "as a result of the information given our members."

"The ladies of the Y. W. C. A. were very 'wrothy' over the action," says the employers, "but we told them we could do nothing unless they would repudiate the action of their national body and promise not to send any of the sums they were raising to the national headquarters, where it would, of course, be used in the support of the national program which had been adopted, and which, we believed, to be detrimental to our American institutions.

"The dangerous attitude of some of our religious and quasi-religious institutions is one of the most serious things we have to face at the present time.

"The radical and bolshevik elements in the churches seem to be co-operating through the federal council of the churches of Christ in America and many of our members are expressing themselves as determined to discontinue financial support of their respective churches unless they withdraw all moral and financial support from the federal council."

OPPOSE SALES TAX BILL.

Cincinnati, March 26.—John P. Frey, editor of the International Molders' Journal, suggests that trade unionists awake to the importance of the proposed sales tax, now advocated in Washington, as a means of raising national taxes. The unionist says:

"What a certain group of representatives are attempting in congress is nothing less than removing the excess profits tax now paid by manufacturers and placing the burden directly upon consumers. Such a tax would make the wage earners heavier burden bearers than before, and would exempt those most able to pay a proper tax from assuming such an obligation.

"The sales tax bill is an effort on the part of certain financial interests to secure exemption from taxation and to have their burden shifted to consumers so that the government may gather a direct tax from every wage earner, each time they purchase any article.

"Local unions and members interested in knowing exactly what is involved in a sales tax should write to Congressman John A. Frear of Wisconsin, house office building, Washington, D. C., for copy of a speech he delivered on this subject, January 31."

BILL OF RIGHTS FILED.

Chicago, March 26.—In filing 11 proposals with the railway labor board, B. M. Jewell, president of the railway employes' department, A. F. of L., declared that the attitude of labor in its controversy with railroad managers has been in accord with President Harding's announced policy of adjusting differences before they result in conflict.

The trade unionist declared that the following principles were the minimum in labor's bill of rights:

Eight-hour day and adequate wages; proper rates for overtime; arrangement of working shifts to permit of reasonable working conditions; reasonable rules for health and safety; definition of the work of each craft; proper apprentice rules; four years' apprentice; the right of the majority of each craft to determine what organization shall represent them; right to select grievance committee; protecting seniority of workers; right to organize without discrimination.

DEMAND CHEAPER RATES.

Austin, Texas, March 26.—The Texas house of representatives demands that railroad rates be reduced. The law makers declared:

"Whereas, it is noted the railroads are putting into effect greatly increased rates, both freight and passenger, and at the same time giving notice of wage reduction; and

"Whereas, the said increased rates have been secured from the interstate commerce commission based on the present wage scale; therefore, be it

"Resolved, that we condemn the unwarranted action of the railroads in this matter and appeal to the interstate commerce commission to reduce the rates of the railroads."

Copies of the resolution have been forwarded to federal officials.

EXTEND INSURANCE.

Brussels, Belgium, March 26.—The government has entered arrangements with Holland whereby workers of both countries will have reciprocity of treatment in regard to compensation for industrial accidents and the advantage of social insurance.

An agreement with the French government guarantees to workers of both countries who work in French or Belgium mines the workers' pensions in force in each of these countries.

COMPENSATION FOR VETS.

Madison, Wis., March 26.—The industrial commission has ruled that where a disabled ex-service man who has been placed in training on the job by the government is injured while thus engaged, he is entitled to compensation under the workmen's compensation act, just as is other employes.

MANY WORKERS KILLED.

Harrisburg, Pa., March 26.—Industry in this state cost the lives of 251 workers in the first two months of the present year. The bureau of workmen's compensation received reports of 25,122 accidents during that period.

"EMPLOY NO WHITE MEN."

Prescott, Ariz., March 26.—Officials of the Phoenix division of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad have ordered section and gang foremen to cease employing white men.

This logical development of the so-called "American plan" is found in Circular No. 629, which notifies foremen:

"When you need men for your gang, write the Home Supply company, railroad mail, addressed to them at Prescott, Arizona; tell them how many men your gang is allowed; how many men you need (state whether single or men with families wanted) and state where you want these men sent.

"When a man is discharged or quits, the Home Supply company should be notified immediately, giving the man's name and the date he quits or is discharged.

"Relative to using white men on sections, please be advised that any white men now in the service will be allowed to remain in the service, but under no consideration should any more white men be hired by you, even if you are authorized by the Home Supply company to hire men for your section.

"These instructions appear to be very definite and concise but they must be followed closely. Failure to comply entirely and exactly with these instructions will result in severe discipline to the foreman concerned."

WHEN "LAW" DOES NOT APPLY.

Topeka, Kan., March 26.—The Santa Fe railroad has discharged over 500 shop employes in this city and the Kansas Trades Unionist says:

"Had this number of men decided that they were underpaid, and quit their jobs, the state industrial court and its attaches would have rushed wildly to the newspapers, along with our 'open mouth' governor, to tell the world what was going to happen to these men for leaving their jobs, the same as they did when the miners of district No. 14, who had gone on strike for and did make the mine operators pay some $200 which they owed to the son of a widow who had this amount coming to him for work done in the mines. In this case, as with the Santa Fe railroad, this court will tell you they have no jurisdiction.

"We acknowledge that this state has no more right to tell the employer that he must keep more men employed than he needs than it has the right to chain a man to his job.

"The law of the state tells this 'industrious' court that it shall guard the public welfare, and one of the things incorporated in this wonderful law is that the employer must consult the court before it reduces its force. Here is a corporation laying off men and it has not a shortage of work, but the reverse is the true situation. In the Topeka yards, taking up trackage space from here to Tecumseh, is more than 1,400 'bad order' freight cars and some 90 passenger coaches."

JUDGE STANDS FOR LAW.

New York, March 26.—Law must be observed, regardless of the crime charged against a man, declared Justice John M. Tierney of the Bronx supreme court in ordering the return of papers seized by the police without a search warrant. The man was charged with being an anarchist, but this did not deter Judge Tierney from expressing these wholesome American sentiments:

"Anarchy is a most detestable crime. But no matter of what grievous crime a man is guilty, procedure against him must be in accordance with the constitution of the United States. It has not been in the past. Police organizations and law enforcing bodies all over the United States have been gross violators of this section of the constitution—which is contained in almost the same language in the New York state constitution."

COMPANY HOUSES PAY.

Washington, March 26.—In a study of housing of employes made by the United States bureau of labor statistics, it is stated that "reports from eight different coal companies in Pennsylvania show a gross return of 11 per cent on a total inventory value of $2,855,912." Among the reasons advanced by employers for maintaining company houses are the following:

"Greater loyalty from employes; more contented and more efficient workmen; a better control of the labor situation (that is, hire and discharge with greater freedom); serves to advertise the company and to keep it favorably before the public; facilitates part time."

AID EX-SERVICE MEN.

Washington, March 26.—The federal board for vocational education declares that every ex-service man who has had a major amputation, or an obvious disability with whom it has come in contact, has been awarded vocational training. The government is ready, when the man is ready, says the board.

In order to give these men training as early as possible training centers have been established in 130 different hospitals, where more than 5,000 men are now being taught a variety of subjects by nearly 400 teachers.

VIOLATE AGREEMENT.

Seattle, March 26.—Coal owners in this state have joined employers who preach the sacredness of contracts and then violate them.

The coal owners have notified their organized miners that they will not recognize the terms of a contract that expires April, next year. As a result 2,500 workers are idle.

RECORD VERDICT UPHELD.

Trenton, N. J., March 26. — The state supreme court has upheld a verdict of $8,500 given to a woman who sued the Public Service Railway company. She was thrown from a street car and was permanently injured because of a broken leg. It is said this is the largest verdict in the state for this injury.

WHY COAL PRICES SOARED

New York, March 26.—The Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal company has declared a special cash dividend of 150 per cent on its $9,212,600 stock.